



278519

## I. HEADING

Date: April 22, 1994  
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 4/22/94

Subject: Pollution Report for Removal Action at the Brite Metals  
 Treating site, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

POLREP NO. 1 (INITIAL)

## II. BACKGROUND:

Site No.:  
 Delivery Order No.:  
 Response Authority: CERCLA  
 CERCLA Incident Category: Site  
 NPL Status: None  
 Start Date: 04-18-94  
 Completion Date:

## III. RESPONSE INFORMATION:

## A. Situation

- o Brite Salt and Heat Treating is a former metal treating facility located at 8640 Bessemer Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. The treating process included the use of molten cyanide salts, acids and bases to harden small steel machine parts. The building, adjacent trailers and grounds contained over 80 55-gallon drums and approximately 10 vats of spent cyanide salts, acids, bases and quench oils. An on-site cyanide destruct treatment system and a collection pit are filled with potentially cyanide contaminated liquids. Two molten cyanide salt pots were located in the facility yard and contained liquids and sludges. ] demp
- o In 1991, U.S. EPA enforcement personnel conducted an inspection of the facility and noted improperly stored wastes, including cyanides, on-site. The owner was instructed to properly handle the wastes on-site. On April 15, 1994, U.S. EPA enforcement personnel returned to the facility to find that it was no longer operational and that the situation had become dangerous. ] mat

## B. Actions Taken

- o April 15, 1994 - U.S. EPA and the TAT conducted a site reconnaissance and collected 69 enforcement samples for EPA Criminal Investigations Unit. Because strong acids, bases and cyanide compounds were stored in ] prev.

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close proximity to one another in deteriorating containers and open vats, an emergency stabilization was deemed necessary. The responsible parties were given verbal notice and agreed to conduct the work. Drums in poor conditions were overpacked. Drums of incompatible materials were separated and staged by hazard categories in different locations in the building. Each hazard staging area was bermed with absorbant material in case of a release. Five additional samples were collected by the TAT to evaluate RCRA/CERCLA threat posed by the wastes stored on site.

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- o April 18 and 19, 1994 - The remaining enforcement samples were collected and pictures taken. All wastes suspected of containing cyanide were stored in a locked trailer. The liquids from outside vats and salt pots were pumped into drums to stabilize. The cyanide destruct pit was sealed and bermed. All drums were sampled for disposal arrangements.
  - o April 20 and 21, 1993 - All remaining vats inside the building were pumped. An additional vat was identified and was pumped into 55-gallon drums to stabilize. The remaining wastes were stabilized and samples collected for disposal characterization. Samples were collected by the PRP contractor and TAT for cyanide analysis to characterize the building, floors, storage trailers, floor drains, and soils on site.

C. Next Steps

- proposed*
- o Issue consent order to responsible party for further site stabilization and waste disposal.
  - o Receive the remainder of the analytical results characterizing the wastes on site. Determine further action, if any.
  - o Arrange for the disposal and transportation of the wastes on site.

D. Key Issues

- o Responsible party is beginning to balk at the cost of a removal.